

Summary of Hot Topics from the Senate EPW Committee:

Majority Members

Barbara Boxer, California, Chair

Chemical Assessment: Human Test Subjects; IRIS Risk Assessments of perchlorate and PBDE's; how EPA determined priority Workplan chemicals.

Clean Air Act -Fuel Economy Standards for Lightweight Vehicles, MACT, Fracking questions about emissions standards and oil and gas storage requirements, Renewable Fuels Standards, Biofuels; AZ Regional Haze

Lead Impacts on Children's Health; Impacts of Lead Smelter Remediation Sites on Public Health

Impact of Radon on Public Health

Good Samaritan Rule for Abandoned Mine Clean-up Sites

Environmental Justice

CSO/SSO integrated planning

TSCA reform

CCR

SF Bay Restoration Act Legislation

San Joaquin and South Coast Air Issues

Central Valley Drinking Water Issues

Marine Debris

I-710 Corridor Zero Emissions Corridor for Trucks

Max Baucus, Montana

IRIS Assessment for Platinum Salts

Clean Air Act: SO₂/ NAAQs; SO₂ designations – EPA's proposed inclusion of Yellowstone County in list of nonattainment area; Carbon Sequestration underground injections; RFS Pathways for barley and camelina; Regional Haze FIP for Montana Billings/Yellowstone County SO₂

Montana Nutrients Standards

NPDES for CAFOs

Superfund: Libby and Troy, Montana -Public Health/Superfund Site Concerns, requests for EPA Assessments; Libby IG Report Smurfits Site/NPL update; East Helena NPL site; Rock Creek and Montanore mines

Selenium contamination of the Kootenai River from coal mining in BC

Tom Carper, Delaware

Clean Air Act -Corn Ethanol Mandate for Renewable Fuels Standards; Tier 3 – has a refinery in DE – formerly Valero, now PBF – that’s worried about impacts of new regs; - DERA funding – given the bang you get for the buck, shouldn’t the Administration support more funding for DERA programs; CSAPR; RFS; Ozone transport and other air issues

CAFOs: Ag uncertainty; national rulemaking

TSCA Reform

Dover Gas Light Site

Chesapeake Bay Delaware Watershed Implementation Plan status

Frank Lautenberg, New Jersey

Clean Air Act: Rice NESHAP Rule, asthma – what more can we do to prevent asthma attacks in children; Climate Change; RICE NESHAP; Requested Suspension of EPA Requirements to Expedite Delivery of Biofuels for Hurricane Sandy

Clean Water Act -Recreational Water Contact Criteria are not strict enough

Hurricane Sandy recovery

TSCA Reform

Superfund Sites; Brownfields; Ringwood Mines Superfund site, Ringwood, NJ; Pompton Lakes RCRA site, Pompton Lakes, NJ

RMP Chemical facility safety and security

Bayonne Bridge infrastructure project

Ben Cardin, Maryland

Clean Air Act: Rice NESHAP Rule; Request to Adjust the Corn Ethanol Mandate for Renewable Fuels Standards; what is EPA going to do to protect Maryland boaters from E15 misfueling mistakes?

Clean Water Act - Climate change adaptability (water); Chesapeake Bay Restoration (TMDL Implementation)

Conowingo Dam

Ft. Detrick NPL site

Pearce Creek Dredge Disposal Containment Area

Bernie Sanders, Vermont

Formaldehyde rules

Climate Bill

Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island

Clean Air Act: Rice NESHAP Rule; Mercury Emissions and Oceans; Ozone NAAQS standard; GHG standards for new and existing power plants

Waste: Questions on Hazard's to Public of Old Lead Smelter Sites; eWaste

Resolving the boat NESHAP issue in Rhode Island

Clean Water Act guidance issuance

Stormwater Rule

Interagency Working Group Update of the Social Cost of Carbon – initial calculation too low, as EPA engages they need to better quantify the costs associated with failing to mitigate and adapt, and to quantify variables such as ocean acidification and species loss

Acknowledge the need to reform TSCA

Tom Udall, New Mexico

Bristol Bay

San Juan Generating Station

Navajo Uranium Clean-up; Uranium mining waste sites in NM

Pesticides and Parkinson's Disease

Border 20/20

Uranium Aquifer Exemptions

Oklahoma and New Mexico Regional Haze FIPs

Jeff Merkley, Oregon

Bristol Bay

LT2 Portland

Logging Roads

Superfund: Portland Harbor Superfund site; Questions on Hazard's to Public of Old Lead Smelter Sites

Safe Drinking Water Act -Confusing provisions are economically harmful to small communities

Coal Export Facilities

Human Health Toxics Criteria

West Salem Assessments

Dairy Farms

Kirsten Gillibrand, New York

Chemical Assessment: Siloxanes

Clean Air Act: Rice NESHAP Rule, Tier 3 Fuel Economy Standards -Where are we in the process?
When can we expect to see a proposal?

Pesticides impact on Honey Bee's

Support of Long Island Sound Estuary Project

Hurricane Sandy recovery; what steps can EPA take to battle climate change?

Fracking

LT2

Hudson River Superfund site cleanup; Concern that Lehigh Valley Train Derailment Superfund site is making nearby schoolchildren sick

Air emissions from Tonawanda coke facility in Tonawanda, NY

Minority Members

David Vitter, Louisiana, Ranking Member

Chemical Assessments: Work Plan Chemicals; How EPA determines Peer Reviewers; Dioxin, Methanol, Perchlorate, Halogenated Platinum Salts; NAS Recommendations for IRIS Assessments; Bias of Peer Reviewers; Chromium-6.

Clean Air Act –CSAPR; CSAPR -Use in Emergency situations; Particulate Matter; MACT; Renewable Fuels Standards RVO for Corn Ethanol; Risk Management Plan Rule/ Posting RMPs to Internet
Opposition; Opposition to implementing Tier 3 Standards for Gasoline; PM NAAQS – (1) delay implementation of most recent PM NAAQS standard; questions the science behind the new air standards and how they will impact states and localities and economic recovery; Las Brisas/Al Armandariz FOIA; Oil and gas NSPS; Nucor – Region 6 will know status; Cost/Benefit Analysis of New Rules

Water: Stormwater Regulations; how EPA is Changing Enforcement Approach in Light of Sackett Decision; Waters of the US; 404 Permits; SPCC; Fracking -Pavillion, Wyoming Study

EPA's Regulatory Agenda

Design for the Environment Program -Is EPA overstepping it's Regulatory Authority

Non Official Email Accounts for Region 8 Administrator

Ozone- EPA is being too aggressive in the phase-out of ozone depleting chemicals and it is hurting small businesses in Louisiana

Lead/RRP Rule and Hurricane Sandy

Bayou Corne investigation – process for determining the PRP and issues related to safety of salt caverns

EPA disapproval of the TX flexible permitting program SIP

Post Katrina New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board settlement negotiations

Baton Rouge Buyout – A community in E. Baton Rouge is in settlement negotiations with the city for a buyout due to nearby sewage treatment plant expansion

Big Cajun Settlement – EPA reached a settlement with Louisiana Generating regarding CAA PSD violations at its Big Cajun 2 facility. Consent Decree lodged with the court in Nov 2012

Jim Inhofe, Oklahoma

Chemical Assessments –IRIS/risk assessments of Perchlorate, Dioxin, and Methanol; perchlorate regulation under SDWA.

Clean Air Act – Economic impact of new rules: MATS, MACT, and NSPSs; MACT Compliance with Data Quality Act; Air Emissions Standards for Fracking Operations; NESHAPS for Oil and Gas; Green House Gas Reporting Requirements, CSAPR; CARR; Particulate Matter; Renewable Fuels Standards RIN Marketplace; Risk Management Plan Rule/ Posting RMPs to Internet Opposition; Opposition to implementing Tier 3 Standards for Gasoline.

Request that EPA delay the Minor New Source Review Program in Indian Country Rule to speed development of oil and gas resources

Lead Impact on Children's Health

Clean Water Act -How EPA is Changing Enforcement Approach in Light of Sackett Decision; EPA Settlement with Conservation Law Foundation and Buzzard's Bay Coalition; Water Quality Modeling and TMDL Development for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

EPCRA -Is EPA requiring ammonia fertilizer dealers to report under EPCRA

Fracking -Safe Drinking Water Act when Diesel is used, Science used in Pavillion, Wyoming Study; draft Permitting Guidance for use of Diesel Fuels in Fracking operations; 2010 Region 6 Administrative Order to halt fracking operations

Lead/RRP Rule Hurricane Sandy

Nutrient impaired streams in Arkansas and Oklahoma

Seismicity Report – reducing induced seismicity as a result of disposal wells

OK and NM Regional Haze FIPs

Tar Creek Superfund Site

Tribal Authority for federal programs; specific concerns re Tribal water quality standards under CWA

EPA disapproval of the TX flexible permitting program SIP and lack of GHG permitting

John Barrasso, Wyoming

Clean Air Act –Disagrees with every major EPA air action; NSPS for new power plants; boilers; MATS; oil and gas NSPS; Cost/benefit analyses of rules; WY Regional Haze SIP/FIP

Waters of the US; 404 Permits;

EPA's National Hydrofracking Study; Pavillion Groundwater Investigation

Treat as a state (TAS) app from the Wind River Tribes

NEPA Wind/Solar energy projects on BLM Land

The scope of NEPA docs needed for coal transport to export terminals in the NW

Slowness of granting aquifer exemptions for uranium UIC permits

Jeff Sessions, Alabama

Clean Air Act –CSAPR; Renewable Fuels Standards Corn Ethanol Mandate; Particulate Matter
Fracking –Science behind Pavillion, Wyoming Study

Clean Water Act -EPA Settlement with Conservation Law Foundation and Buzzard's Bay Coalition

Effluent Limitation Guidelines for Coalbed Methane -Economic Considerations

Questioning Climate Change Science

SRF Buy American provisions

North Birmingham Environmental Collaboration Project

Redstone Army Arsenal

Anniston CERCLA Lead/PCB removal

Mike Crapo, Idaho

Chemical Assessments- Formaldehyde Rules

Clean Air Act –Economic Impact of Regional Haze SIPs for Wyoming and Utah; Renewable Fuels
Standards Corn Ethanol Mandate; Opposition to Posting RMPs to Internet

Encouraging EPA to reach a settlement with owners of Silver Mine Superfund Site and the Coeur
D'Alene Tribe in Utah

Clean Water Act -How EPA is Changing Enforcement Approach in Light of Sackett Decision; Proposed
Rules for Cooling Water Intake Structures

Fracking –Science behind Pavillion, Wyoming Study

Lead/RRP Rule Hurricane Sandy

TSCA Reform

Logging Roads

Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site, FMC operable unit

Human health toxics criteria

Municipal wastewater treatment permits

Dairy Farms

Roger Wicker, Mississippi

Clean Air Act – Request to exclude Desoto County from Memphis Nonattainment area; ethanol – wants to freeze the amount of ethanol allowed in gasoline at 10 percent and prohibit the agency from approving E15 going forward.

Clean Water Act -Proposed Rules for Cooling Water Intake Structures

Hancock County SRF debt

Chemfax Superfund site, Gulfport

John Boozman, Arkansas

Clean Air Act –MACT; Renewable Fuels Standards Corn Ethanol Mandate

Water Quality Modeling and TMDL Development for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Lead/RRP Rule Hurricane Sandy

NPDES for CAFOs

Nutrient impaired streams in AR and OK

Seismicity Report – reducing induced seismicity as a result of disposal wells

Deb Fischer, Nebraska

EPA Agriculture Issues: Farm Dust

Regulatory Reform

Strong Opposition to GHG Regs and Cap and Trade

Additional Major Issues

Sen. McCaskill – St. John’s River (wetlands)

Nutrients in the Mississippi

Vessel General Permit – in March